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Committee on Information
Thirty-second session
26 April-7 May 2010
Consideration and adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session

Draft report

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 34/182, the General Assembly decided to maintain the Committee to Review United Nations Public Information Policies and Activities, established by its resolution 33/115 C, which would be known as the Committee on Information, and to increase its membership from 41 to 66. In section I, paragraph 2, of resolution 34/182, the Assembly requested the Committee:

> "(a) To continue to examine United Nations public information policies and activities, in the light of the evolution of international relations, particularly during the past two decades, and of the imperatives of the establishment of the new international economic order and of a new world information and communication order;
>
> "(b) To evaluate and follow up the efforts made and the progress achieved by the United Nations system in the field of information and communications;
>
> "(c) To promote the establishment of a new, more just and more effective world information and communication order intended to strengthen peace and international understanding and based on the free circulation and wider and better balanced dissemination of information and to make recommendations thereon to the General Assembly"

and requested the Committee and the Secretary-General to report to it at its thirty-fifth session.

2. In its resolution 35/201, the General Assembly expressed its satisfaction with the work of the Committee, approved its report and the recommendations of its Ad Hoc Working Group, reaffirmed the mandate given to the Committee in its resolution 34/182 and decided to increase the membership of the Committee from 66 to 67. At its organizational session in 1980, the Committee agreed that the principle of geographical rotation would be applied to all the officers of the Committee and that they should be elected for two-year terms of office.

3. The General Assembly, from its thirty-sixth to sixty-third sessions, took note of the reports of the Committee and adopted consensus resolutions. At its sixty-fourth session, the Assembly took note of the report of the Committee and adopted consensus resolutions 64/96 A and B.

4. Currently the Committee is composed of the following Member States:

Algeria	Bangladesh
Angola	Belarus
Antigua and Barbuda	Belgium
Argentina	Belize
Armenia	Benin
Austria	Brazil
Azerbaijan	Bulgaria

Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cape Verde
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Gabon
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Guinea
Guyana
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Lebanon
Liberia
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malta
Mexico
Monaco
Mozambique
Nepal
Netherlands
Niger
Nigeria
Pakistan
Peru
Philippines

Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovakia
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

II. Organizational questions

A. Opening of the session

5. The organizational meeting of the thirty-second session of the Committee on Information was held on 26 April 2010 at United Nations Headquarters. The session was opened by the Chair of the Committee, Antonio Pedro Monteiro Lima (Cape Verde).

B. Election of officers

6. Following the departure of Irakli Chikovani (Georgia), Vice-Chair, from the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations, Shalva Tsiskarashvili (Georgia) was elected to serve as a Vice-Chair for the remainder of the 2009-2010 term. The officers of the Committee on Information for the period 2009-2010 are as follows:

Chair:

Antonio Pedro Monteiro Lima (Cape Verde)

Vice-Chair:

Stéphane Crouzat (France)
Amir Hossein Hosseini (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Shalva Tsiskarashvili (Georgia)

Rapporteur:

Sheree Chambers (Jamaica)

C. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

7. At its organizational meeting on 26 April, the Committee adopted the following agenda and programme of work (A/AC.198/2010/1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
4. Admission of new members.
5. Statement by the Chair.
6. Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information.
7. General debate.
8. Consideration of reports submitted by the Secretary-General.
9. Open-ended working group of the Committee on Information.
10. Consideration and adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session.

8. The Committee held its general debate from 26 to 28 April 2010. On 26 April, in the afternoon, the Department of Public Information, led by its Under-Secretary-General, held an interactive dialogue with Member States.

9. For its consideration of agenda item 8, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information: strategic communications services (A/AC.198/2010/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information: news services (A/AC.198/2010/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information: outreach services (A/AC.198/2010/4);

In addition, the Committee considered the proposed strategic framework for the period 2012-2013 (A/65/6 (Prog. 23)).

D. Observers

10. The Holy See, Palestine and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization participated in the session as observers.